

COLUMBIA.

Monday Morning, Sept. 11, 1865.

Work for Legislation.

Assuming that the members of the Convention will confine themselves to the simple purpose for which they are brought together, and which involves, perhaps, no higher duty than the mere registering of a decree, nothing can be predicated of their action with regard to the future policy of the State. This is a matter which belongs wholly to the Legislature, and it is one which will task their abilities to the utmost. The first serious embarrassment to the domestic Government must be found in the financial poverty of the State, and, possibly, the utter baldness, at this juncture, of all financial invention. Money must be had for the maintenance of Government; yet the most experienced business and thoughtful brains may well be puzzled in procuring a base of operations on which to found a credit, effect a loan, fly a kite to any profit, or devise a single scheme of subtlety in banking operations, by which, if only for a time, to procure the means of simple State existence. Where are salaries to come from? What shall be the measure or quality of taxation? How shall the people contribute to the support of a Government, when so few can procure the adequate means for their own support? What a volume of distress and misery is to be read in the case of the thousands of widows and orphans, whose resources were in bonded debt, or other choses in action, in dwellings which have been destroyed and which they cannot rebuild, and in the mutual support of communities, interchanging uses and offices in trade, the trade itself being subverted. To compass a sufficient financial scheme for the support of Government and the succor of the people, is at once the paramount necessity and the unparalleled difficulty which the legislators will need to surmount. We confess our utter inability to discover the resources upon which our statesmen can build, or to which they can look; and unless the Government of the United States shall feel it incumbent upon them to repair the evils which their own action has occasioned, by an assumption of our debts, the case becomes too frightful for contemplation. To annihilate three billions of property at a blow—to achieve a great benevolence and a grand work of humanity—as negro emancipation is assumed to be, at the expense of one portion only of our people, and without according to the people thus despoiled any equivalent—is not only a monstrous act of legislation, but a destructive hostility to the superior race. It should be a part of the plan of the Legislature, through a well chosen commission, so to bring this matter to the consideration of Congress, as to impress upon it the equal justice of our demand and the absolute necessity of its liquidation, if our country is to be saved from ruin. Why should not Congress assume our debt, at least to the extent of the four hundred millions which Mr. Lincoln was prepared to grant? This sum, though really but one-tenth of the value of the property thus taken from us, would at least enable our people to resume the work of building up their prostrate fortunes. The claim is founded upon the eternal principles of right and justice; and we protest against that charity which employs the money of another for effecting its so-called schemes of benevolence. The problem of State support and popular support must necessarily come up among the first for consideration by the Legislature; and we trust that this body will be so wisely chosen as to be able to bring to the discussion the necessary wit and wisdom for our escape from the meshes of a condition in which we are as helpless as the fly in the net-work of the spider.

Jeff. Davis' health is improving.

[For the Phoenix.]
H. B. F. Ferry.

The Convention, which will assemble in a few days, must doubtless speedily restore the State to her former relations in and under the Union. Her civil government re-organized and put in motion, the delicate and responsible duty will devolve upon her representatives in the next Legislature to select wise and able statesmen to represent her interests in the Senate of the United States. After the experience by the people of this State, of the capacity and wisdom displayed by her Provisional Governor in his successful administration of affairs during the present transition, the suggestion of the name of the honorable gentleman for the high and distinguished position as a Senator from South Carolina, in the councils of the nation, will not be deemed premature. Thirty-five years of public service in the two branches of the State Legislature, in the discharge of which he was distinguished for his independence of character, soundness of judgment, enlarged views, and a comprehensive policy, attest his superior qualifications, and prominently recommend him as the choice of the people. His consistency as a public man has singled him out before the people of the whole State, and so marked has been his devotion and attachment, throughout his political career, to the Union, that it earned for him the approving eye of the President of the United States. His appointment as Provisional Governor of the State is sufficient testimony of the high position in which he stands with the Administration at Washington, and is the surest guarantee the people can have for the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of the State. If political sagacity and wisdom, and decision of character, are the attributes which fit men to guard the interests and direct the affairs of a commonwealth, he certainly possesses them. Burying past prejudices and forgetting former dislikes, all parties now unite in pronouncing him wise. If he did not sanction the early movements that precipitated so dreadful a revolution upon the entire country, it was because his judgment condemned the principle. This was the best manifestation of his love for the honor and glory of his State. Time and events have since vindicated his course and approved his policy. Let him receive the reward due to merit, loftiness of character, integrity of purpose and enlightened wisdom, and the people will then realize the great advantage to be gained by selecting for the direction of the affairs and the protection of their interests, a man sprung from their midst, and who, in heart and soul, is essentially devoted to the influence of

THE PEOPLE.

The latest European advices give a report, on good authority, that the steamship Great Eastern was to be almost immediately despatched from Sheerness to New Foundland, and that on the way she would endeavor to grapple and buoy the broken ocean cable, in the success of which enterprise strong hopes were indulged. It has been determined in England to attempt the laying of another Atlantic telegraph next year, making use in the work of the recovered portions of this summer's cable.

Frauds of army officers, perpetrated by forging descriptive lists, signatures to passes and other military papers, have just been developed in Baltimore. are to be thoroughly investigated. The amount of money thus fraudulently procured has not been ascertained; but it is supposed to be very large. Washington despatches state that the Government has taken such precautions that the national Treasury cannot in any event be a loser to any considerable extent by the reported swindles of paymasters in Virginia, or by any other similar operations in the pay department. The receipts of internal revenue by the Treasury Department for the month of August were thirty-four millions of dollars, and the Treasury is represented to be at present in an easy condition.

On Thursday afternoon, a train on the South Shore Railroad, at West Hingham, Mass., ran into a stage coach, which was crossing the track, carrying twelve ladies and gentlemen, instantly killing one and seriously injuring several others of the passengers. Some of the injured, it was believed, could not recover.

I know not whether the Confederate flag is still flying on the Shenandoah, to the disgust of New Bedford and Nantucket, but it has been struck in London. The *Index* has been discontinued. The reason given is that its readers persisted in considering it a Confederate organ, and an encouragement to continued opposition to the Federal Government. Wishing to end even the appearance of a useless opposition, it ceases to be. The *Index* has been conducted for some three or four years with talent and moderation. Its editor and its principal writers have been Englishmen, but the soul of the enterprise was Henry Hotze, formerly an editor of Mobile, Ala., and the financial agent of the Confederate States in London. He is a Swiss by birth, emigrated early in life to Alabama, and is considered not only a man of rare ability, but of singular integrity. Besides the English writers which it was his policy to engage in the Southern cause, and who carried the spirit of the *Index* and the inspirations of Mr. Hotze into half the journals of London, there were a few Americans who contributed to its columns—Southerners, or Northern Copperheads, and the two guineas an article helped some to live in London who would have otherwise found it more difficult.

I was a little astonished, a day or ago, to see the Confederate loan quoted at five to seven, and to learn that the holders were anxious to have a report from the agents respecting the next dividends. If the cargo of cotton attached, the other day, at Liverpool, was intended to redeem a part of the loan, the subscribers may still realize something; or there may be a lingering hope that the individual States will, at some remote period of time, redeem their several shares, in good cotton bales, or that Congress, the legal administrator of the defunct Confederacy, will feel bound to pay its debts, as well as to seize and possess its assets. For example, why should not the Federal Government, in taking the ram Stonewall, pay its French builders, as well as the officers and crew discharged at Havana? What says Wheaton on this subject? By-the-way, Wheaton is being translated into Chinese by an American missionary. The Chinese would not take his Testaments, so he gives them Wheaton. They refuse the law of God, but may benefit by the law of nations.—*Cor. New York Times.*

WHITE VS. BLACK TROOPS.—Monday afternoon an affray, which might have resulted more seriously under other circumstances, occurred at the junction of the Danville and South-side Railroad. A detachment of several hundred negro soldiers are stationed at the junction, and a train carrying a regiment of white troops en route for Petersburg, to be mustered out of service, came down from Danville. At the junction the troops disembarked to take the South-side train. One of the negro guards perambulating the platform is said to have remarked, "I wish I could get a sight of one of dem Louisiana rebels," or words to that effect. One of the white soldiers, who overheard him, cursed the negro. The two clinched, blows passed, and the white and black elements immediately took sides, and a fight ensued. No fire-arms or deadly weapons were used, I believe, but one white and one colored soldier were severely beaten. The white troops retired apart to themselves, and though they carried their muskets they were unloaded, and their cartridge boxes were empty. The negro guard at the depot were speedily reinforced from the camp, and for a few moments the aspect of affairs looked threatening indeed. Railroad officials, residents and native negroes, hastily deserted the scene. Had the white soldiers had ammunition, the affair would probably have eventuated in bloodshed. Finally the troops were embarked, and the train left for Petersburg.

It is said that the troops that went on sent back a messenger towards Danville to notify other regiments following to "pick their flints" and be prepared for the junction. Some six or eight thousand were to come down within the next few days, and serious difficulty was apprehended, but the officers know how to meet the emergency and prevent further trouble. The citizens of the neighborhood are getting up a petition to the military authorities, asking to be relieved of the presence of the negro soldiery.

On Thursday night of this week, the wife of Dr. Marson, residing in South Dedham, Massachusetts, while in a fit of mental derangement, produced by continued sickness, shot dead her husband and her daughter, aged ten years, and concluded the horrid work by shooting herself.

Local Items.

* To insure insertion, advertisers are requested to hand in their notices before 4 o'clock p. m.

Special attention is invited to the sale of an extensive stock of groceries, furniture, etc., in front of their auction room, to-morrow morning.

Brig. Gen. Ames, assigned to command on this station, with his staff, Col. Carlton and Capt. Lockwood, arrived in this city yesterday. For the present he has his quarters at the Shiver House.

Gov. Ferry failed to reach the city yesterday. He cannot arrive before Wednesday, as the trains from Greenville run only every other day.

See the advertisement of Messrs. Sulzbacher & Co., announcing a singularly large variety of dry goods and groceries; things for the toilet of ladies and gentlemen alike; clothing for autumn and winter wear; and, briefly, an ample supply to meet the needs and desires of the community of both sexes, and all colors.

Any of our readers who may chance to visit New York this fall would, perhaps, find it to their advantage to call on Mr. Thomas R. Agnew, of No. 260 Greenwich street, who has a large and complete stock of groceries, etc., on hand, and declares his intention to sell as cheap (if not cheaper) than any other house. Our old friend, Mr. John Agnew, will be found at this establishment, and will endeavor to accommodate his friends.

NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS.—We are pleased to acknowledge, from the thoughtful attention of Mr. Nickerson, copies of the New York Herald, the Times and the World, to the 2d inst. From these, numerous extracts will be found throughout this day's *Phoenix*, yielding us as much of the world, the flesh and the devil as we can reasonably sustain at a single sitting.

THE SEASON.—A long drought, which dries up our wells; hot days, which dry up our brains and the blood in our veins; sultry noons and stifling nights, which make the sense of breathing one of suffering, and deny comfort by day and sleep by night; these are the conditions imposed upon us by this vindictive month of September. Avoid the sun as much as possible, and welcome sleep whenever you can get it.

THE CONVENTION.—As the proceedings of the Convention may be expected to be of absorbing interest to all persons in the State, and as the *Phoenix* will make daily reports of its progress and the results from it, besides publishing in full the new Constitution the moment it shall be ratified, it will be well that persons desiring to subscribe should do so in due season. In the present scarcity and cost of printing paper, publishers cannot venture to print upon a mere speculative or possible demand. We shall publish but a few more copies than will suffice for our customers, and unless they come forward promptly, they may find themselves too late for the supply.

COURTENAY & TRENHOLM.—This new firm, just established at Newberry, in the commission and forwarding business, are entitled to the full confidence of the community. Both of the parties are well known to us as experienced in the conduct of affairs in general, and perfectly trustworthy as men of integrity and high character. Mr. Courtenay was, for many years, associated with his brother in the book and publishing business in Charleston; subsequently, in the *Mercury* newspaper, as its business manager; next, in the war, where he achieved a captaincy. Mr. Trenholm, his partner, was trained in the great commercial house of John Fraser & Co., which is, perhaps, a sufficient certificate of good conduct and ability.

NICKERSON'S HOTEL.—Our ancient and time honored host, Mr. Nickerson, opens his hotel, this day, in the Female College, and we are advised that all visitors will be welcome who desire to see the preparations which the proprietor has made for the entertainment of the public. We can venture to promise that curiosity will be well gratified by an examination of the interior arrangements of this excellent establishment. No able host could be found, and no building better adapted to his purposes. We may take for granted that he has not been making vain preparations for the last few months. We assume that all that could be achieved by long experience and a natural fitness for the vocation, will have been done by Mr. Nickerson—all that lies within the possibilities of his situation—and that his new house will not only maintain the reputation acquired in his old, but that he will not be shamed by any comparison with the hotels of the bigger cities. His space is ample, his rooms excellent and well arranged, and we take for granted that his resources for the table will satisfy, in quantity, quality and variety, the gourmand no less than the epicure. In connection with this matter, by the way, we may suggest to the country farmers that they will here find the most ready market for their produce. Butter, meats, poultry, eggs, vegetables—all are grieved to the Nickerson mill; and the calculation is that the consumption of this establishment alone will suffice to constitute a sufficient market for almost everything, in the shape of food, which may be brought into town. And this suggestion should conduct to another; and we trust soon to behold the proprietors of all the farms surrounding the city, addressing themselves to the work of their renovation—to their thorough tillage, according to the English or the German plan, making every acre of ground responsible for its fifty bushels of

corn or its five hundred bushels of ruts bags.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning:

T. S. Nickerson—Re-opening Hotel.
Melvin M. Cohen—Northern Cabbages, & Shiver House—Manure for Sale.
Courtenay & Trenholm—Com'n Mer'ts.
O'Neale & Son—Commission Merchants.
Simons & Kerriam—Liquors, &c.
P. F. Cuttino—Groceries.
Jacob Levin—Gas-light Stock.
" " " "Furniture, &c.
Sulzbacher & Co.—New Goods.
" " " "Cotton Wanted.
Durbec & Walter—Groceries, &c.
John Agnew—A Card.
Dr. W. M. Scarborough—Medical Card.

SCENES IN THE WIRZ TRIAL.—A scene of an unpleasant character occurred yesterday during the trial of the Wirz case, growing out of excessive zeal or lack of judgment on the part of the prisoner's counsel. The President of the commission not understanding the statement of the witness on the stand, asked the latter a question, with a view of having him repeat the statement. Thereupon Mr. Baker, defendant's counsel, in a petulant tone and offensive manner, broke out: "I do wish the court would not interfere with the witness while I am examining him. I have difficulty enough to make out my case against this kind of testimony, without being subjected to these interruptions of the court." This ugly temper was allowed to pass without rebuke and in a few minutes it broke out afresh, the witness Kellogg, in making his statement, said: "I came near being shot myself." Mr. Baker, in an improper manner, ordered the witness to stop. The court informed the attorney that this was not a proper way to examine a witness. Baker replied insultingly, concluding his remarks with these words: "Nobody was hurt, yet somebody must be hung." Gen. Thomas remarked: "I think these remarks are very improper and out of place, and, for one, I do not feel inclined to submit to them. I wish to give the prisoner a fair trial, but I am not satisfied to sit here and listen to such language."

Gen. Wallace added: "This is of a piece with the general character of the defence. But the court has a remedy, and it will be applied if these remarks are continued." This was a settler for Mr. Baker, and he subsided. [*New York Times.*]

According to announcement duly made throughout business circles, a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Ketchum, Son & Co. was held yesterday afternoon. The meeting was convened through the following circular:

NEW YORK, August 23, 1865.
DEAR SIR: Since the events of last week, which disclosed to ourselves the unfortunate condition of our house, and drove us to assignment, we have been busily engaged in efforts to secure our property to our creditors, and to give early information of the state of our affairs. We are now able to say, for the first time, that, according to the balance on our books, our liabilities are, in round numbers, \$4,000,000, while the available assets applicable to the payment of our liabilities and the expenses of winding up the estate cannot, probably, realize more than \$250,000 to \$3,000,000, and in a forced realization, probably less than either sum. Some claims, amounting to \$250,000, have been made upon us, which we think we are not liable for, and there is a faint prospect that our assignees may regain a very small amount of the assets of which we were fraudulently deprived. The amount of funds and securities abstracted from us without our knowledge at the time, and to our so great loss, is now definitely ascertained to have been no less than \$2,800,000.

Advices from Buenos Ayres, South America, as late as the 25th of July, have been received; but they contain little or nothing additional regarding the war between Brazil and Paraguay. It is reported that the Paraguayans have been defeated with heavy loss near the town of San Borgia, though, as no date is given, it is uncertain whether the fight alluded to is not the same one the account of which was given in the *Herald*, of the 11th ult., wherein it is stated that the Paraguayans had been victorious. The fugitive reports relative to this war, like those in reference to the contest between the Republicans and Imperialists in Mexico, are very vague and confused. It would seem that the Emperor of Brazil himself designs having a personal supervision of the contest, as at the date of last accounts he had arrived at Buenos Ayres. Our correspondent in that city, in his letter which we publish to-day, gives a history of the war up to the 12th of July, and some account of South American affairs generally.—*New York Herald.*